

Business Office Update May 11, 2015 Meeting

General State Aid Reduction

- PA 99-0001
 - PA 99-0001 reduced General State Aid (GSA) by 2.15% so that Illinois could fund daycare, prison guards, court reporters, etc... for the remainder of the state's fiscal year. This results in a reduction of GSA for Millburn of \$87,044.
 - However, the public act also included a supplemental appropriation of \$97 million that will be distributed to school districts in financial distress as a way to protect districts with a high probability of financial crisis as a result of the reductions. As a result of the hold harmless provision in the act, Millburn will be receiving a supplemental distribution in May or June of \$64,101.
 - Thus, the district's net loss of GSA is \$22,943 from PA 99-0001.
 - The total loss of GSA to the district in the 2014-15 school year including proration and PA 99-0001 is \$321,444.99

Transportation

- Direct Fired Bus Heaters
 - The district has received preliminary grant approval from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for installing the heaters on the 16 buses we will receive in July. Because the cost of the heaters will exceed \$25,000, this will need to go through a bid process. Bid specifications were released on Friday, May 8, 2015. Bids are due at 10:00 a.m. on May 21, 2015. Approval of the bid recommendation will be on the Board agenda for May 26, 2015. I did speak to a representative from the Illinois EPA. Once the board approves the bid recommendation on May 26, 2015, the grant approval will be finalized by May 28 or 29, 2015. The grant will pay the entire cost of installation of the heaters that will result in reduced idling time and have a side benefit of quicker starts in the winter because the heater will preheat the engine.
- Bus Video/Audio Cameras
 - I attended a session at the Illinois Association of School Business Officials conference at the end of April where various camera systems were discussed as well as learning the legal issues that govern use of the video and audio. The same laws also govern the use of the video cameras that we recently installed in both schools. I am in the process of getting pricing for installing camera systems on our school buses. Once I have more information, I will share it with the board so that a decision can be made regarding adding cameras to the bus fleet.

Retro-Commissioning

- Terry Miller and I will be meeting with representatives from Energy Group 360 to review the preliminary retro-commissioning report on May 13, 2015. Once the report is finalized, Energy Group 360 will be invited to a meeting to review the report and recommendations with the Board.

Health, Dental & Vision Insurance and the Flexible Spending Plan

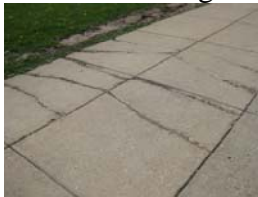
- Open enrollment for health, dental, & vision insurance will end on May 13, 2015.
- Open enrollment for the flexible spending plan will run from May 15 – June 15, 2015

Summer Projects

- While this was not originally on our list of summer projects, the rooftop HVAC unit over the administrative offices in the older section of Millburn Elementary failed last week. The unit appears to be the original unit and repair would not be cost effective. At this point, I don't have a replacement cost, but I believe it will be high enough that we will need to bid installation of a replacement unit. Since the unit is located on the section of roofing that will be replaced this summer, we will coordinate the replacement of the unit with the roofing project. I will be talking to Energy Group 360 and Fanning Howey regarding replacement of this unit with a more energy efficient unit.
- In preparing for the 2015 summer project season, Terry Miller and I met with Charli Johnsos from Fanning Howey and with George Dreger from Eriksson Engineering Associates, Ltd. on Thursday, May 7, 2015. We discussed the following items.
 - There are two areas in the front Millburn Elementary where large cracks have appeared in the sidewalk and one section of sidewalk where the corner has popped leaving a depression. This is an area where the area heaves in the winter and has caused staff, students, and patrons to trip as they walk from the drop-off area to the building.



- There is a significant portion of the sidewalk leading from the bus drop-off area to the rear student entrance by the cafeteria at Millburn Elementary in worse condition than the areas in the front of the building.



- A hazardous condition exists at the student/staff entrance on the northwest corner of Millburn Elementary where water from melting snow runs across the sidewalk to the swale on the side of the building. Despite salting this area frequently, it continues to cause a problem with icing over in the winter creating hazardous conditions. This is also an area where staff members have fallen during the winter months. We will be looking at removing two sections of sidewalk, installing a drain structure to move the water under the sidewalk to the swale and then replacing the two sections of sidewalk.



- We looked at what we can do with the parking lot at Millburn Elementary School with the goal of getting 2 more years of use. The front lot will need to be removed and reconstructed at some point in the future. The back parking lot is in relatively good condition except for areas along the bus lane where we are looking at removing and replacing two large sections. The hard surface play area has significant pothole damage on the east and west sides while the center section is in relatively good shape. We are looking at the possibility of replacing East and West sections of asphalt and leaving the center intact. We can include an alternate to remove and replace the entire play area. In addition, the hard surface areas at both buildings would be seal coated and striped. I anticipate that the cost for the asphalt repairs, seal coating, & striping will exceed \$50,000 requiring the district to bid the work. The seal coating and minor repairs that we did in 2013 cost just under \$30,000. In 2013, we did not seal coat the lot at Millburn Elementary and did only minor patching of asphalt.



-
- The expanding hole on the play fields continues to grow with each large rain. It appears that a field tile that was designed to route the rainwater to the stream along Crawford Road has collapsed. George indicated that typically, the collapse is within 500 feet of where the problem occurs. Once the tile is located and repaired, we will be able to do some backfilling of the area, but will be limited in what we can do because it has now become an “aided wetland.” An additional study and approvals would be required if we want to do more than simply repair the problem. My main concern is to stop the erosion, so I would not recommend spending the money to return the area to a swale that it was prior to the extensive erosion.



-
- The final area we discussed is the retaining wall at Millburn Middle School between the park and the visitor parking lot. There are actually two retaining walls. The upper retaining wall has adequate drainage and appears to be in relatively good shape. The lower wall has no drainage and is being moved as a result of water building up behind the wall. George recommends that the wall be removed and reconstructed including drainage for the water. It is recommended that this be completed in dry weather when there is less danger collapse of the slope during reconstruction.



Activities

- I attended the Illinois Association of School Business Officials Conference in Schaumburg from April 29 – May 1, 2015. In addition to attending some great sessions, I also participated in a panel presentation, “Leveraging Your 10 Year Life Safety Survey.” The presentation focused on the opportunity that districts have to expand their Life Safety Survey to include a Facility Condition Assessment that allows the district to develop a long-range plan for properly maintaining their facilities as we are doing at Millburn.
- Mr. Lind and I attended the SEDOL budget meeting on May 7, 2015. Subject to approval of the Governing Board, the SEDOL tuition rates will increase by approximately 3% for the 2015-16 budget year.